



**Lake County, Florida**  
**Department of Growth Management**  
**Zoning Division**  
**TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION/PERMIT**  
**Section 9.02.03-9.02.06 and 14.14.04**

Address # \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Address (Mailing) \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

Zip Code

Applicant/Agent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant/Agent Address (Mailing) \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

Zip Code

Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

Project Physical Location \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

Zip Code

Legal Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach Property Record Card

Zoning \_\_\_\_\_

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ ALT KEY # \_\_\_\_\_

Subdivision /Phase \_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_ Lot \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Development** \_\_\_\_ Single family or duplex \_\_\_\_ Easement \_\_\_\_ Addition to dwelling unit  
\_\_\_\_ Commercial/Industrial/Multi-family/PUD/Subdivision/Mobile Home Community

**Submittal Information**

- \_\_\_\_ A. A tree inventory consisting of an aerial photograph or drawing (at a scale of one inch equals four hundred feet (1" = 400') or greater) showing:
- \_\_\_\_ 1. Property boundaries (survey)
  - \_\_\_\_ 2. For all trees found on the attached approved tree list measuring four (4") Caliper or greater for upland tree or wetland tree of any size:
    - a. Location of individual trees
    - b. Caliper of individual trees
    - c. Common name of individual trees
  - \_\_\_\_ 3. All trees proposed for removal.

\_\_\_\_ B. Number of trees removed or to be removed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ C. Justification for tree removal: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** This permit maybe subject to inspection by County staff.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tree Removal Application/Permit Fees and Instructions****Fee Schedule**

\_\_\_ Tree removal application review for development project - \$200.00

\_\_\_ **After the fact** tree removal application review for development project - \$500.00

Tree Removal Permit: Approved \_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_ Permit Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments and/or Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Staff Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Inspections**

Inspection Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_

Comments and/or Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Inspected by Authorized Staff Signature

Final Inspection Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_

Comments and/or Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Inspected by Authorized Staff Signature

**The following trees require a Lake County Tree Removal Permit for removal:**

1. **Trees greater than 4" caliper;**
2. **Wetland trees or a tree that is part of a Sand Pine (Scrub) or Xeric Oak community of any size;**
3. **Any protected trees species listed below:**

**CEDAR**

Atlantic White Cedar - (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*)

**CYPRESS**

Bald Cypress - (*Taxodium distichum*) \*  
Pond Cypress - (*Taxodium ascendens*) \*

**ELM**

American Elm; White Elm - (*Ulmus americana*) \*  
Winged Elm; Cork Elm - (*Ulmus alata*)

**HICKORY**

Mockernut Hickory - (*Carya Tomentosa* Nutt.)  
Pignut Hickory - (*Carya glabra*)  
Scrub Hickory - (*Carya floridana*) – +  
Water Hickory - (*Carya aquatica*) \*

**HOLLY**

American Holly - (*Ilex opaca*) –  
Dahoon Holly - (*Ilex cassine*) \*  
Palatka Holly - (*Ilex attenuata*)

**MAPLE**

Florida Maple - (*Acer barbatum* Mich.) \*  
Red Maple - (*Acer rubrum*) \*

**MAGNOLIA**

Sweet Bay - (*Magnolia virginiana*) \*  
Southern Magnolia - (*Magnolia grandiflora*)

**OAK**

Bluejack Oak - (*Quercus incana*) +  
Chapman Oak - (*Quercus chapmanii*) –  
Laurel Oak - (*Quercus laurifolia*)  
Live Oak - (*Quercus virginiana*)  
Myrtle Oak - (*Quercus myrtifolia*) – +  
Post Oak - (*Quercus stellata*)  
Sand Live Oak - (*Quercus geminata*) –  
Turkey Oak - (*Quercus laevis*) +  
Water Oak - (*Quercus nigra*) \*

**PALM**

Sabal Palm; Cabbage Palm - (*Sabal palmetto*)  
Silver Palm – (*Coccothrinax argentata*)

**PINE**

Loblolly Pine - (*Pinus taeda*)  
Longleaf Pine - (*Pinus palustris*) – +  
Pond Pine - (*Pinus serotina* Mich.) \*  
Sand Pine - (*Pinus clausa*) –  
Slash Pine - (*Pinus elliotii*)

**RED CEDAR**

Southern Red Cedar – (*Juniperus silicicola*)

**OTHERS**

Basswood - (*Tilia americana*)  
Blackgum - (*Nyssa sylvatica*) \*  
Chickasaw Plum - (*Prunus angustifolia*)  
Flowering Dogwood - (*Cornus florida*)  
Fringe Tree - (*Chionanthus virginica*)  
Hackberry - (*Celtis canadensis*)  
Hornbeam - (*Carpinus caroliniana*)  
Loblolly Bay - (*Gordonia lasianthus*) \*  
Persimmon - (*Diospyros virginiana*) +  
Red Bay - (*Persea borbonia*) \*  
Red Mulberry - (*Morus rubra*)  
Redbud - (*Cercis canadensis*)  
River Birch – (*Betula nigra*)  
Sparkleberry - (*Vaccinium arboreum*)  
Sugarberry - (*Celtis laevigata*)  
Sweetgum - (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) \*  
Tulip Tree - (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)  
Walter's Viburnum - (*Viburnum obovatum*)  
Wax Myrtle - (*Myrica cerifera*) \*  
Wild Olive-Devilwood - (*Osmanthus americanus*)

- \* INDICATES WETLAND TREES
- INDICATES SAND PINE COMMUNITY
- + INDICATES XERIC OAK COMMUNITY

## **TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION/PERMIT, REMOVAL CRITERIA**

### **Criteria for Issuance of Tree Removal Permit.**

A tree removal permit shall be issued when one or more of the following circumstances exist:

- 1. Street opening.** The location of a tree restricts the opening of a street or right-of-way;
- 2. Utilities and drainage.** The location of the tree restricts the construction of utility lines or drainage facilities;
- 3. Property access.** The location of the tree restricts access to the property;
- 4. Property use.** The location of the tree restricts use of the property consistent with all other county and state codes, statutes, ordinances, and resolutions, and site location modifications are not feasible or reasonable and which a variance would otherwise have to be granted;
- 5. Hazards.** The tree constitutes a **potential** hazard to life or property that cannot be mitigated without removing the tree;
- 6. Poor tree health.** The tree is dying or dead so that its restoration to sound condition is not practical, or it has a disease which can be expected to be transmitted to other trees and to endanger their health;
- 7. Thinning of trees.** In order to increase light and air circulation for the purpose of improving poor health conditions of a group of trees or preventing disease of a group of trees, the selective removal of up to twenty-five (25) percent of the group of trees may be permitted. Silviculture best management practices (BMP's) described in the Silviculture Best Management Practices published by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (1993) shall apply.

### **The following criteria DO NOT require a Lake County Tree Removal Permit:**

The following are exempted from the requirements of this Section.

- A. Prohibited trees listed below:
 

Australian Pine - (Casuarina spp.) Melaleuca - (Melaleuca quinquenervia) Chinaberry - (Melia azedarch) Ear Tree - (Enterlobium cyclocarpum) Eucalyptus species - (Eucalyptus spp.) Brazilian Pepper - (Schinus terbinthifolius) Paper Mulberry - (Broussonetia papyrifolia) Silk Oak - (Grevillea robusta) Empress Tree - (Paulownia tomentosa)	Tree of Heaven - (Ailanthus altissima) Chinese Tallow Tree - (Sapium sebiferum) Japanese Tallow Tree - (Sapium japonicum) Camphor - (Cinnamomum camphora) California Privet* - (Ligustrum ovalifolium) *both shrub and tree forms Cedar Gum (Eucalyptus gunnii)
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- B. Trees located within existing recorded or prescriptive public road or drainage rights-of-way and easements that are to be removed as part of a Board approved project. However, all protected trees that are removed under this exemption shall be relocated or replaced either within the project site or at a public offsite location (e.g., other right-of-way, parks, governmental buildings, or tree farms). All replacement trees shall be at least two to two and one-half (2 –2 ½) inch caliper, Florida number 1 grade or better.
  
- C. For the purposes of this exemption, trees located within new rights-of-ways along existing roads which are to be removed as part of a Board approved project shall also be exempt from the permitting requirements of this Section provided:
  1. The rights-of-way are necessary to meet minimum County width standards, up to a total right-of-way width of eighty (80) feet;
  2. The existing number of roadway lanes will not be increased;
  3. A notice of all such activities is submitted to the County Manager or designee within ten (10) working days prior to the activity; and
  4. The trees removed are relocated or replaced as required above.

**(The following criteria DO NOT require a Lake County Tree Removal Permit Continued)**

- D. Trees less than four (4) inches caliper, unless a wetland tree or a tree that is part of a Sand Pine (Scrub) or Xeric Oak community as listed on page 3.
- E. Trees of any size existing on lots of one (1) acre or less upon which one or more single-family or duplex dwellings exist unless such trees:
  - 1. Are being cleared in order to construct a second residence on the property, or development associated with a commercial or industrial structure regardless of when or by whom construction is planned; or
  - 2. Are trees planted to fulfill the tree replacement requirements set out on page 6; or
  - 3. Are trees planted to fulfill the minimum tree requirements as set out in the landscape requirements, of the Landscaping Standards ordinance; or
  - 4. Are wetland trees or trees that are part of a Sand Pine (Scrub) or Xeric Oak community as indicated on page 3.
- F. If any tree is determined to be in a hazardous or dangerous condition so as to endanger the public health, welfare, or safety, and requires **immediate** removal, the tree may be removed without obtaining a written permit or paying the required fee, however, the following is required to be submitted to Lake County for future reference if needed:
  - 1. Photo documentation of hazardous tree by property owner is required prior to removal and shall be submitted to the Customer Services Division. Property identification shall also be submitted.
  - 2. Replacement requirements herein required apply to any tree or group of trees deemed hazardous and removed.
- G. Greenbelt Exemption. Any tree that is in a documented Lake County designated Greenbelt is exempt from the tree removal requirements.
- H. Agriculture and Silviculture.
  - 1. Trees located on land zoned agriculture ("A"), **taxed and used for bona fide agricultural purposes**, such as field crops, citrus, nurseries, forest crops, animal husbandry, or greenhouses, except trees removed in order to construct improvements not reasonably related to bona fide agricultural and silvicultural purposes regardless of when or by whom construction is planned, are exempt.
  - 2. Trees located on land zoned Ranchette District ("RA") or Rural Residential ("R-1") are also exempt for those agricultural uses that are allowed within these zoning districts.
  - 3. Stands of Pine (*Pinus spp.*) planted or occurring naturally which would be used in a silvicultural activity and are subject to compliance with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services silvicultural best management practices (BMP's) described in Silviculture Best Management Practices published by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (1993 edition). This publication is hereby adopted and included by reference herein. A copy of such publication is available from the County Manager or designee.

## **Replacement requirements:**

- 1. Amount of replacement.** At least thirty-three (33) percent of the total number of trees permitted for removal pursuant to any one permit shall be replaced onsite by the permittee.
- 2. Site plan projects.**
  - a. Replacement trees shall be planted prior to issuance of the certificate of occupancy.
  - b. Replacement trees shall be located onsite in areas approved by the County Manager or designee as a condition of the tree removal permit. These areas may include, but are not limited to, open space areas, areas adjacent to stormwater management facilities, landscaped buffer areas, and entrances to the project area (when visibility for vehicular and pedestrian traffic would not be hindered).
- 3. Subdivisions.**
  - a. Replacement trees shall be planted in accordance with either, or both, of the following:
    1. Prior to issuance of the certificate of occupancy for each individual structure on a lot; or
    2. At the time of submission of the performance bond required pursuant to the maintenance of improvements in the Lake County Land Development Regulations.
  - b. When the certificate of occupancy method is used, the required number of replacement trees shall be equitably distributed on each lot within the subdivision.
  - c. When the performance bond method is used, the replacement trees shall be located onsite in areas approved by the County Manager or designee as a condition of the tree removal permit. These areas may include, but are not limited to, open space areas in PUD's, areas adjacent to stormwater management facilities buffer areas, and entrances to the project area (when visibility for vehicular and pedestrian traffic would not be hindered). The permittee shall demonstrate the availability of water to maintain the trees through water trucks, wells, central system, or other methods.
  - d. When both the certificate of occupancy and performance bond methods are used, the applicable proportions of replacement trees determined from each method shall be indicated on the tree removal permit.
- 4. Landscape credit.** The replacement trees may be used to meet the requirements of the landscaping standards.
- 5. Replacement maintenance.** The replacement trees shall be maintained in good condition for one year during which the property owner guarantees survival.
- 6. Restriction on use of palm trees.** Protected palm trees shall not account for more than one-quarter, or twenty-five (25) percent of the required replacement trees.
- 7. Replacement credit.** The permittee may choose and is encouraged to retain some of the trees permitted for removal in lieu of replacement. The trees to be retained may be selected totally at the discretion of the permittee except for those trees required to be removed by other ordinances, regulations, or statutes. The number of trees retained shall be credited toward meeting the above thirty-three (33) percent replacement requirement.
- 8. Replacement exception.** These replacement requirements shall not apply to any permit for the removal of less than three (3) trees. The removal of four trees requires one replacement tree.
- 9. Replacement size.** A replacement tree shall be an approved tree at least two to two and one-half inches (2-2 ½) caliper, Florida number 1 grade or better.
- 10. Minimum tree requirements.** These replacement requirements may apply to the minimum tree requirements set out in the landscaping standards ordinance.